

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the application. Claims 7-16 are allowed. Claims 2-5, and 19-22 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but were indicated as containing allowable subject matter by the Examiner. Claims 1, 6, 17, 18, and 23 were rejected. Claims 1, 2, 17 and 19 have been amended. New claims 24-26 have been added. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-5, and 19-22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2-5 and 19-22 have been rewritten in independent form and should be allowed.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 6, 17-18, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in Figure 2 of the instant application in view of Partridge et al. (US 6,160,811).

The combination of APAA and Partridge do not teach each and every element of claim 1 for at least the reason that neither reference teaches the element of “determining, based on the examination of the header fields, a second processor responsible for processing that egress packet, the second processor selected from a plurality of forwarding processors in the network access server.” With regard to APAA, the Examiner acknowledged in his December 2004 Office Action (page 3) that APAA does not disclose this element. Partridge also fails to disclose these elements as will be explained. The applicant has clarified that it is the first processor that does the examining and the determining.

The Examiner has alleged that the network processor of Partridge is a first processor and that the forwarding engine of Partridge is a second processor. However, nowhere in

Partridge does Partridge disclose the network processor examining the header fields or determining a second processor. In fact, with regard to the examining, Partridge discloses nearly the opposite, i.e. the alleged second processor (the forwarding engine) reads the header field. Referring to Partridge, col. 3, lines 2-11, "[t]he principal purpose of each of the *forwarding engines* is to read the headers of packets coming into a TSU from the outside world, i.e. the network, to update the header for transmission out of the router..." (emphasis added.) Thus, in Partridge, the forwarding engine (the alleged second processor) reads the headers of packets coming into a TSU from the outside world, not the network processor. This is nearly the opposite of what is written in the Examiner's December 2004 Office Action, page 3. Furthermore, another portion of Partridge precludes the network processor from determining a forwarding engine because the TSU selects the forwarding engine, "the TSU selects a forwarding engine and abstracts the link layer data in the header...." (see Partridge, col. 5, lines 19-28.) Thus, in Partridge the TSU and not the alleged first processor selects the forwarding engine. In summary, Partridge does not disclose the alleged first processor of Partridge examining the header fields or selecting a second processor – instead these functions are performed elsewhere in Partridge by the forwarding engine or the TSU. Thus Partridge does not teach the elements of the claim that the Examiner alleges.

Furthermore, claim 1 has been amended to specify that the second processor is integrated into a line interface card. Support for this amendment is included in Figure 3 of the present specification and page 11, lines 16-25. The alleged second processor of Partridge (the forwarding engine) is not integrated into a line interface card (see Partridge col. 3, lines 53-55 where the forwarding engines 33-35 are distinguished with the cards 20-32.) Therefore neither APAA nor Partridge teach this additional element. Accordingly, in Partridge, as line interface cards are added forwarding resources will become inadequate as the system scales to handle more calls.

Because Partridge does not suggest or disclose the element that the Examiner acknowledged as deficient from APAA, Partridge does not cure the deficiencies of APAA and claim 1 should be allowed. Furthermore, claim 1 should be also allowed for the additional reason that it now includes the feature of the second processor being integrated into a line interface card. Claim 6 depends on claim 1 and is thus should be allowed for at least the same reason as claim 1.

Claim 17 has been amended. Claim 17 should be allowed for at least similar reasons as claim 1. Claims 18 and 23 depend on claim 17 and should be allowed for at least the same reason as claim 17.

New claims

New claims 24-26 have been added. Support for these new claims is included in the present specification Figure 3 and in the description of Figure 3 in the present specification page 11, lines 6-15.

New claim 24 depends on claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reason as claim 1. Neither Partridge nor Figure 2 disclose a second processor integrated into a line interface card. In Partridge, the alleged second processor, the forwarding engine, is not integrated in a line interface card and is physically separate from a line interface card. Accordingly, in Partridge, as line interface cards are added forwarding resources will become inadequate as the system scales to handle more calls. Integrating a forwarding engine into a line interface card ensures that forwarding resources will remain adequate as the system scales to handle more calls. Each time a line interface card is added to handle more calls, sufficient processing capability is added at the same time.

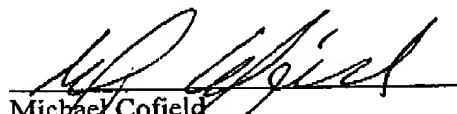
New claim 25 should be allowed because it depends on claim 7 that the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. New claim 26 should be allowed for at least the same reason as claim 17.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-31 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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